

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 11 and 13 are amended and claims 20-21 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

Applicant sincerely acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 4-5, 7, 13-14, 16 and 20-21 define patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

A. The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 8-12 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,831,688 to Yamada et al. (hereafter "Yamada") and U.S. Patent No. 6,735,253 to Chang et al. (hereafter "Chang"). The Office Action also rejects claims 6

and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamada, Chang and U.S. Patent No. 6,178,202 to Nakaya. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that allowable subject matter from claim 21 is incorporated. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claim 11 defines patentable subject matter for at least reasons similar to claim 1. Claims 2-3, 6, 8-10, 12, 15 and 17-18 depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 8-12, 15 and 17-18 under §103 is respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carl R. Wesolowski, at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. 09/995,663  
Reply to Office Action of June 9, 2005

Docket No. K-0356

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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